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# Making History: The Campaign for Penn Vet

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# Making History: The Campaign for Penn Vet

BY KELLY STRATTON

Campaigns are designed to help institutions take giant steps toward meeting their top priorities. *Making History: The Campaign for Penn Vet* was launched in 2006 and is helping to transform the School and offer unparalleled support to students and faculty, the best care possible for our patients and funding for our trend-setting translational research efforts.

To date, Penn Vet has raised \$96 million of its \$125 million goal; however, with just two years remaining, there are still important goals to reach. Here, we've highlighted some significant achievements as well as outlined our fundraising priorities that will have a tremendous impact on our three-fold mission of education, research and service.

## Investing in Care and Research

Physical space and state-of-the-art technology is a vital priority of any research institution and Penn Vet is no different. Top-tier hospitals equipped with the latest in technology enable students to receive a first-class education, while also providing patient care that is unparalleled and new laboratories conducive for cutting-edge research.

## Care and Research Goals Achieved

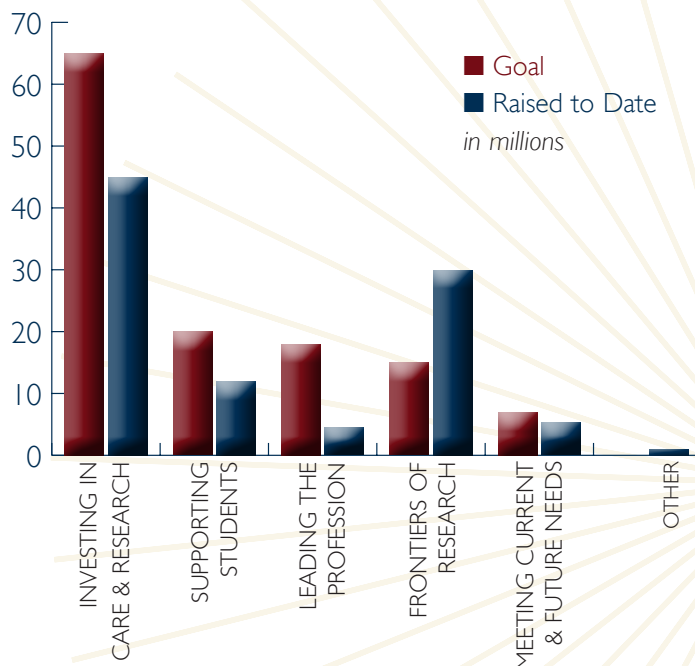
Thanks to leadership support from Betty Moran and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the James M. Moran, Jr. Critical Care Center at New Bolton Center was opened this past summer. The Center, which was originally conceived in 2006, provides state-of-the-art learning opportunities for students as well as top-tier care for equine clients.

The building is completely bio-secure and includes two separate wings: one for colic patients; the other for gastrointestinal clients, preventing direct interactions between patients. All stalls are completely self-contained with individual access from the outside. Each patient enters its stall by one door and exits the same way. Patients do not cross another's path.

A particularly important feature is air pressurization of the central corridors relative to the stalls which ensures that all air transfers are from the clean hallways through the stall, to the exterior of the facility. Stalls are independently ventilated.

Each stall has at least one camera to enable staff to view patients from a central nursing station without entering the area. Mare-and-foal stalls have two cameras

## CAMPAIGN REPORT: \$125 MILLION GOAL \$96 MILLION RAISED TO DATE





The much anticipated James M. Moran, Jr. Critical Care Center Grand Opening was held June 2010. The facility allows NBC to continue its trend of pace-setting advances in equine medicine.

for complete coverage. Specialized system software allows clinicians to check on patients from home or after hours via internet.

Construction materials for the Center were critically evaluated to provide maximum clean-ability, environmental safety and efficient operation. Solid, non-porous, highly durable surface materials were selected along with proper sealing agents for block walls. Even the door handles on the stall doors were carefully selected for safety, security and ability to be disinfected.

This building is a significant, tangible example of how Penn Vet's campaign goal of Investing in Care and Research has been met, and, while impressive, there are additional items and projects currently underway and planned that will allow faculty, staff and students to continue research and learning in the most advanced facilities available anywhere.

### *Care and Research Plans Underway*

At New Bolton Center, a **first-class Equine Performance Evaluation Facility** is currently being developed, which will allow faculty, staff and students to more quickly and accurately act on a care plan when equine patients are admitted. Plans include a covered 80-foot by 112-foot soft-surface arena, a 100-foot-long hard-surface arena and a covered trotting path for lameness evaluation and exercising of animals.

On the Philadelphia campus, a **state-of-the-art minimally invasive surgical suite at the Matthew J. Ryan Veterinary Hospital (Ryan-VHUP)** is planned in order to provide the most technologically advanced operating procedures available in veterinary medicine today, including endoscopy and arthroscopy.

The minimally invasive surgery program provides important benefits to our animal patients: less pain, quicker recovery and less risk of infection. Shelter animals

brought to Penn Vet for free spay and neuter procedures will benefit from this state-of-the-art procedure, as well.

The suite will include equipment booms and audio/visual technology to provide clinical data and images for viewing and sharing from within the sterile field to local and remote displays. This feature allows surgeons to access instant, in-house second opinions and expertise, ensuring the ultimate in patient care. Expected completion date for this suite is Summer 2011.

### *Investments in Care and Research Future Goals*

The George D. Widener Hospital for Large Animals at New Bolton Center, constructed more than 40 years ago, is outdated and needs to be updated to keep pace with developments in veterinary medicine as well as the expertise of our clinicians and demands of our students. It is insufficient and unsophisticated by today's standards.

To address that problem, a **state-of-the-art surgical suite upgrade** is planned. The design for this suite include construction of three separate surgical rooms, a colic work-up room, three separated prep rooms, a scrub room, a faculty/staff lounge and three faculty offices. To date, \$3.2 million has been raised toward the estimated total cost of \$17 million.

By offering a bigger, better setting for surgeries with the most advanced equipment available, New Bolton Center and Penn Vet can continue to offer top-rate education to students and opportunities to surgeons as well as more services to clients.

In Philadelphia, customer service takes precedence with plans to create a **more open, friendly and customer-focused renovation of the Ryan-VHUP lobby**. Currently, Hospital leadership is working to select a



An artist's rendering of plans for the state-of-the-art minimally invasive suite slated to open in 2011 at Ryan-VHUP. Illustration by Berchtold Corporation.

design firm for the project and aims to secure renderings and illustrations and begin construction this coming spring with a completion date of Fall 2011.

Proposed renovations of these 5,000 square feet of space include the addition of automated front doors for ease of entering with injured or sick animals; improved client services areas; private consultation areas in the beautified and brightened waiting area; access to an outpatient pharmacy and retail and display areas.

## Supporting Students

To date, Penn Vet has raised nearly \$12 million of its \$20 million goal to support students. Most of this money is for scholarship purposes, which help to alleviate the very real stress of paying back student loans after graduation.

In addition, these funds help to expand opportunities for students – nationally and internationally – and include externships, internships and valuable summer travel trips that round out the classroom curriculum. All students at Penn Vet have opportunities to travel abroad (which you can clearly see throughout this issue of *Bellwether*) where they engage and take on leadership roles on a global scale.

Thanks to funds already received, we've welcomed 125 students for the Class of 2014 and three new VMD/PhD students. The VMD/PhD program, which currently has 28 enrolled students, is one of four top programs offered in the United States and Penn Vet's program is considered to be the most prestigious and competitive of those offered.

## Leading the Profession

A hallmark of Penn Vet, faculty continue to be the best in veterinary education and are leaders in their fields. They are regularly asked to speak at international conferences and are sought-after experts.

Of the more than \$4 million that's been raised to date in this area, \$3 million has been designated to endow a professorship in honor of Dr. Dean Richardson, chief of Large Animal Surgery at New Bolton Center. The gift, from generous Penn Vet friends Mr. and Mrs. Roy Jackson, is the cornerstone of a major new Penn Vet initiative to fight laminitis, which afflicted Kentucky Derby winner Barbaro. Laminitis is a severe, painful condition in horses that can be fatal. The laminitis initiative will foster training programs and studies for new treatments of equine diseases.

In addition to this professorship, \$923,000 was raised to support the Harriet Woodward Professorship in Biochemistry and \$420,000 was secured from Abaxis for a Ryan-VHUP Special Species term chair.

By meeting the \$18 million professorship goal, we will be poised to continue to offer opportunities for these

leading researchers and teachers and maintain our first-class reputation. Plans for money raised include looking at opportunities to endow chairs in four key areas, including neuroscience, infectious disease, regenerative medicine and cancer with emphasis on translational medicine in all areas. We also seek to secure additional named chairs in Pathobiology and Clinical Research.

## Frontiers of Research

Since 2006, research dollars brought in from private foundations and corporations, excluding federal and NIH grants, total \$29 million, exceeding our \$15 million goal by 99 percent. Penn Vet researchers have long been leaders in securing private funding for their research endeavors. Of the 28 veterinary schools in the United States, Penn Vet receives the largest share of NIH funding annually; NIH is especially interested in what we do because of our translational relationship with human medicine researchers.

While the success in fund-raising for research has exceeded our \$15 million goal, we are consistently striving to expand these dollars because it allows Penn Vet faculty and staff to find new methods of treating devastating diseases and illnesses, which may ultimately better the lives of both animals and humans.

## Meeting Current and Future Needs

Finally, operating support to assist with the day-to-day management of both campuses is always needed. We've attained about 77 percent of our campaign goal in Meeting Current and Future Needs, which covers such things as operating costs, supplies and other charges. This area of our fund-raising goal is so important as it provides the tools with which faculty, staff and students work.

## Two Years to Go

We are extremely grateful for the unyielding support of our friends and supporters without whom these great strides would be impossible. Two years remain in our campaign, and we hope during that period to aggressively work toward fulfilling the needs and projects outlined above. We are focused and optimistic and know that we can rely on you to help us reach these lofty aims.

For more information about how you can support our faculty and students, allow patients to receive the most advanced care available anywhere, contribute to finding a cure for the most devastating diseases and illnesses in both animals and humans and ensure public health, contact Melissa von Stade, assistant dean of Advancement, Alumni Relations and Communications for Penn Vet, at [mstade@vet.upenn.edu](mailto:mstade@vet.upenn.edu). ■